

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STANFORD?

Acting upon the faith that people in the Palo Alto-Stanford community believe in peaceful, constructive change, various concerned members of this community decided on April 9th to take a major step in the direction of re-orientation of the destructive research policies on the Stanford campus and at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI). We feel that the overpowering need to alleviate human suffering, both at home and abroad, can only be met by vigorous, urgent action, and that the peaceful demonstration now in progress provides a just basis for further action as it is designed to halt specific forms of death-producing research.

While our air and water are becoming more and more polluted, while our cities are decaying and becoming miserable places in which to live, while hunger plagues thousands of rural and ghetto Americans, and while crime increases at the fastest rate in our nation's history, our tax money is being dissipated on war research. Instead of finding methods to help our society, scientists are developing the newest techniques in shattering chemicals and bacteria to kill the maximum number of people and defoliate the largest area of land. These scientists are engaging in destructive research, when there is such great need for constructive research at home.

We have been repeatedly foiled in attempts at using the normal channels, both oral and written, to call for an end to research in the areas of: 1) chemical and biological warfare, 2) counter-insurgency at home and abroad, 3) other research in support of the wars against the people of Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos, and 4) classified research, especially classified military research.

Therefore, to emphasize the honesty and depth of our requests, we decided to have a non-violent sit-in in the Stanford Applied Electronics Laboratory. These laboratories are a major center of objectionable research on campus. This sit-in compels the community to consider the important issues now at stake.

After the decision was made to enter the building it was resolved that: 1) no violence would be committed upon any person, 2) no property would be destroyed, 3) the building would remain open for all. The policy of non-violence has been strictly observed.

One of the fundamentals for constructive social change is proper education. Despite the sensationalism generated by the local news media, we will continue to clarify our actions and purposes to the community. Yesterday we formed a structure of committees to represent our views to the employees of the university and SRI, and to the Palo Alto-Stanford community at large.

Let us know of your ideas on Stanford research. How do you want it to affect your community? Feel free to come on campus and exchange views with us. We will be equally willing to come talk with you. We need your support. If you would like to help, write letters to your newspaper or address contributions to the SRI COALITION, care of the ASSU Office, Stanford University, Stanford, California.